

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 SY-10 SS-15 NSC-10

PRS-01 PPT-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 021525Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2477

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONGEN HAMBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GE, UR

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF US CITIZEN ALFRED (ANDREAS) STEINER
IN EAST BERLIN

REF: A) BERLIN 1652; B) BERLIN 1615; C) BERLIN 1451

1. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER TELEPHONED SOVIET COUNTERPART ROMANOVSKIY SEPTEMBER 27 TO REMIND HIM THAT DESPITE REPEATED REQUESTS (REFTELS) WE HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION FROM SOVIET EMBASSY CONCERNING ANDREAS STEINER, US CITIZEN REPORTEDLY UNDER ARREST IN EAST BERLIN FOR ENGAGING IN EXFILTRATION. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER REMINDED ROMANOVSKIY THAT WE CONSIDERED SOVIET AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR US CITIZENS ARRESTED OR DETAINED IN EAST BERLIN AND AS COROLLARY EXPECTED TO BE FULLY INFORMED WHENEVER SUCH CASES AROSE. ROMANOVSKIY WAS INITIALLY HESITANT, BUT SAID HE WOULD RAISE MATTER ONCE MORE WITH HIS AMBASSADOR.

2. ROMANOVSKIY CALLED BACK OCTOBER 2 TO REPORT THAT HE HAD MADE FURTHER APPROACH TO GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY
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AND HAD ELICITED SOME INFORMATION. HE SAID AN

ALFRED STEINER (ANDREAS APPARENTLY BEING MIDDLE NAME),
WITH DATE OF BIRTH 1944 RATHER THAN 1941, HAD BEEN
ARRESTED EARLY IN AUGUST, AND WAS TO BE PROSECUTED
IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS' TIME ON CHARGE OF "ILLEGALLY
TAKING OUT PERSONS". IN RESPONSE TO MISSION PROTOCOL
OFFICER'S QUERY, ROMANOVSKIY SAID IT WAS HIS UNDER-
STANDING THAT LAWYER WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO STEINER IN
PRISON. ANY FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING ARREST OR
CHARGES COULD, HE SAID, BE OBTAINED THROUGH STEINER'S
LAWYER.

3. COMMENT. WHILE THERE IS IN ALL PROBABILITY
LITTLE THAT WE CAN DO ON STEINER'S BEHALF, AT LEAST
FOR THE PRESENT, WE CONSIDER THIS TO HAVE BEEN WORTHWHILE
EXERCISE IN REINFORCING OUR POSITION THAT SOVIET EMBASSY
BEARS CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR US CITIZENS WHO FALL
AFOUL OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN EAST BERLIN.

4. FOR HAMBURG: CONSULATE GENERAL MAY WISH TO CONTACT
STEINER'S MOTHER AND RELAY APPROPRIATE INFORMATION
SHOULD LAWYER NOT ALREADY HAVE DONE SO.KLEIN

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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